

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in the above caption pursuant to and consistent with a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New independent claim 24 has been added which is directed to a faced insulation assembly. Support for such new claim can be found in the specification at least at page 2, line 16 to page 3, line 7, taken in connection with page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 4. Claims 10, 13, 14, and 23 have been amended to depend from new claim 24. Claim 10 has also been amended for readability purposes.

New dependent claims 25-31 are directed to additional aspects of the faced insulation assembly. Support for new claims 25 and 31 can be found in the specification at least at page 13, lines 3-6 and page 13, lines 11-15. Support for new claims 26 and 29 can be found in the specification at least at page 5, line 33 to page 6, line 5. Support for new claim 27 can be found at least at page 3, lines 6-7, taken in connection with page 4, lines 30-33. Support for new claim 30 can be found at least at page 12, line 21-31. Support for new claim 28 can be found at least at page 6, line 32 to page 7, line 4. Entry of the foregoing amendments is proper at least because a Request for Continued Examination is being filed herewith. See 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

In the Official Action mailed January 16, 2007, claims 8, 10, 13, 14, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0030018 (*Weinstein et al*) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0166087 (*Gembala*), U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0163724 (*Trabbold et al.*) and U.S. Patent No. 2,496,566 (*Szwarc*). This rejection is moot in view of the above cancellation of claim 8 and the amendments of claims 10, 13, 14, and 23, and as such withdrawal of the rejection is now in order. Moreover, Applicants submit that new independent claim 24 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the applied art for at least the following reasons.

Weinstein et al fails to disclose or suggest each feature recited in independent claim 24. For example, *Weinstein et al* does not disclose or suggest an asphalt coating layer that does not extend to the lateral edges of the glass fiber insulation blanket such that lateral edge portions of the facing are not bonded to the first major surface of the glass fiber insulation blanket by the asphalt coating layer, as recited in claim 24. By comparison, it is noted that *Weinstein et al* discloses a fibrous insulation blanket with a facing that is bonded to a major surface of the fibrous insulation blanket by a bonding agent such as an asphalt. Paragraph [0043].

However, as can be seen from Figures 8-15, the facing of *Weinstein et al* are fully bonded to the fibrous insulation blanket up to and including the lateral edges thereof. *Weinstein et al* teaches that such binding of the lateral edge portions of the facing is beneficial as the bond functions as a vapor barrier. Paragraph [0060]. Clearly, in view of the above disclosures, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the *Weinstein et al* assembly to arrive at an asphalt coating layer that does not extend to the lateral edges of the glass fiber insulation blanket such that lateral edge portions of the facing are not bonded to the first major surface of the glass fiber insulation blanket by the asphalt coating layer. In fact, *Weinstein et al* discourages employing the claimed structure in light of *Weinstein et al*'s teaching of the benefits of employing a facing that is bound to the fibrous insulation blanket up to and including the lateral edges thereof.

The secondary applied art fails to cure the above-described deficiencies of *Weinstein et al*. For example, *Gembala* has been relied on for disclosing a scented agent and a holding or complexing agent in an asphalt mixture to reduce and mask objectionable odors. Paragraph [0006]. *Trabbold et al* has been relied on for disclosing a formaldehyde-free duct liner comprising at least one fiber component and a non-liquid substantially formaldehyde free binder for bonding the at least one fiber component. Paragraph [0009]. *Szwarc* has been relied on for disclosing a plasticised resin-asphalt wax compound including a fungicide that is applicable to kraft paper. Col. 1, lines 1-20. However, like *Weinstein et al*, the secondary applied art fails to disclose or suggest an asphalt coating layer that does not

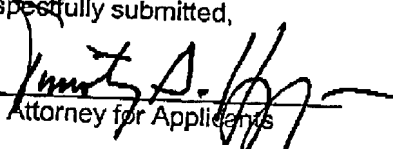
extend to the lateral edges of the glass fiber insulation blanket such that the lateral edge portions of the facing are not bonded to the first major surface of the glass fiber insulation blanket by the asphalt coating layer.

For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that the applied art fails to anticipate or render obvious independent claim 24.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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